GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3849
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
DEMARCATION OF ECO SENSITIVE AREAS
Birla Shri Om;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Wild Life Board has recommended for demarcation of all ecologically sensitive areas around protected areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to identify the eco-sensitive areas in mountains, hills and other areas including Himalayas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; State and location-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)and (b) The National Board for Wildlife on 17th March 2005 had decided that "Delineation of Eco-Sensitive Zones would have to be site specific and relate to regulation, rather than prohibition of specific activities. State Governments will have to be consulted in this regard and concurrence obtained. This being an area of potential conflict with local communities, no enhancement of area should be done arbitrarily". The following are the important actions taken by the Government for declaration of Eco Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries:

(i) In pursuance of the decision taken by the National Board for Wildlife taken in its meeting held on 17th March 2005, the State Governments were requested vide letter dated 27th May 2005 to submit site specific proposals.

(ii) The State/Union Territory Governments were requested to provide necessary documents to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, while submitting the proposals for processing them for notification. Such documents included map of the area demarcating the boundary of the National Park/Sanctuary and the proposed Eco-Sensitive Zones; coordinates; statement of prohibited/regulated/permitted activities; monitoring mechanism, etc.

(iii) Pursuant to the interaction with the State/Union Territory Governments on framing the proposals for Eco-Sensitive Zones by the States, guidelines were issued for declaration of Eco-Sensitive Zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries.

(iv) The Ministry has also convened regular meetings with the representatives of the State/Union Territory Governments for expediting the processing of the proposals for declaration of eco-sensitive zones.

(c)and (d) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has not conducted any specific survey for identification of eco-sensitive zones around National Parks and Sanctuaries in mountains, hills and other areas including Himalayas. The proposals are prepared and submitted to the Ministry by the respective State/Union Territory Governments in accordance with the decision of the National Board for Wildlife.